

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1, 12-13, 16-17 and 20 have been amended. New claim 21 has been added. Claims 1-21 are pending and under consideration.

It is respectfully submitted that the objections to the Specification are overcome by the amendments thereto.

Claims 1-3 and 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wassermann.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites said elastic member being detachably attached to the printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose the electronic component to seal a gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board. As an example, present FIG. 3(b) illustrates this feature.

According to the Examiner, the apparatus 1 of Wasserman corresponds to the claimed spacer. However, the apparatus 1 is arranged inside of terminals 20 which connect a component 2 and a circuit board 3. Wasserman, FIG. 3. As shown in FIG. 3 of the reference, a gap still exists between the component 2 and the circuit board 3 on the outer periphery thereof. Thus, this reference does not disclose that the apparatus 1 seals a gap formed between the component 2 and a circuit board 3. A disadvantage of Wasserman is that foreign objects may enter the gap.

Independent claim 1 further recites that the spacer is for attaching onto a printed wiring board to which is fixed an electronic component having a component package. However, the apparatus 1 of Wasserman is not attached to the circuit board 3. Instead, the shoulder portion 1031 is inserted therebetween. Wasserman, FIG. 3.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and recites the frame-like shape has a pair of hook portions for projecting into the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board. The Examiner's attention is drawn to present FIG. 5a. The Examiner asserts that spacer projections 102 and shoulder portions 1031 of Wasserman correspond to the claimed hook portions. However, as shown in FIG. 1 of the reference, the elements 102 and 1031 are not 'hook' portions, but cylindrical tabs.

New independent claim 21 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference at least for similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

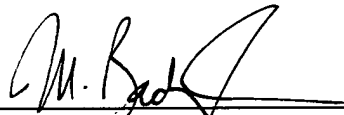
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 2-22-05

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